



Soil Cleanup to Begin at Terrell Homes

Barth Smelting Corporation Site
Newark, New Jersey

Community Update

November 2013

PUBLIC MEETING

The EPA will be hosting a public meeting to provide information about the residential soil sampling conducted throughout the Terrell Homes and future cleanup actions.

Representatives from the EPA, Newark Housing Authority, and Newark Department of Child and Family Wellbeing will also be available to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have about the Barth Smelting Site.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Terrell Homes Community Room
35 Riverview Court
Newark, NJ 07105

For information on this meeting, please contact Sophia Kelley at (212) 637-3670.

The EPA encourages all residents of Terrell Homes to attend and participate in the public meeting.

If you would like additional information, please contact:

Sophia Kelley
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
(212) 637-3670
kelly.jessicasophia@epa.gov

Kimberly Staiger
EPA On-Scene Coordinator
(732) 452-6415
staiger.kimberly@epa.gov

SITE INVESTIGATION

In December 2012, the EPA sampled soil at the Terrell Homes playground area. Soil sampling results show that lead levels are above the EPA's Residential Screening Level of 400 parts per million (ppm) in surface soils in the old playground areas at the Terrell Homes housing complex.

Additional soil sampling was conducted throughout the unpaved areas of Terrell Homes in March/April, 2013. Elevated levels of lead were found in the grassy area next to the Community Building. All areas where lead contamination is present in the unpaved areas have been fenced off to restrict access.

More targeted soil sampling was conducted in May and August 2013 to determine how much soil needed to be addressed in a soil cleanup.

SOIL CLEANUP

The EPA will begin a cleanup of the fenced off areas at the Terrell Homes property to address the high levels of lead in the soil. The EPA anticipates starting the cleanup the week of December 2, 2013.

The cleanup will involve the installation of a soil retaining wall, removing the top one foot of lead contaminated soil within the fenced areas, replacing it with clean soil, and restoring the grassy areas to prior conditions. These actions will greatly reduce possible exposure to lead in soil at Terrell Homes.

Air monitoring and dust suppression will be performed during all phases of the soil removal to prevent releases of lead dust into the community.

Please note that parking restrictions will be in place along Riverview Court during the cleanup.

If you would like information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by the EPA, please contact:

George Zachos
U.S. EPA
Regional Public Liaison
(732) 321-6621
zachos.george@epa.gov

Or toll free at (888) 283-7626

**For health related questions,
please call:**

Peter Dillon Jr
City of Newark Health Department
Director of Inspections
Department of Child and Family
Well-Being
(973) 733-4315

Shonda Bryant
City of Newark Health Department
Childhood Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program Coordinator
(973) 733-5323

***Free blood lead screening is
available Monday to Friday for
children ages 0-6 years at the
Newark Department of Child and
Family Well Being (located in the
WIC Office, ask for the lead
screening lab):***

**110 William Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR LEAD EXPOSURE

Keep children away from the fenced off areas at Terrell Homes, until the cleanup is complete. Low levels of lead contamination in soil are not unusual throughout many urban areas. Lead is present in the **unfenced** areas of Terrell Homes, but at concentrations that are lower than the EPA's residential screening level for lead of 400 ppm, and lower than background areas not impacted by the Barth Smelting Site.

However, since children are very sensitive to the effects of lead, practical measures should be taken to minimize exposure to lead in soil. The EPA recommends:

- Removing shoes at the door to prevent tracking in any dirt that may be on your shoes;
- Washing hands and face, especially after coming in from outside and before eating or drinking;
- Washing frequently toys and other objects young children handle and put in their mouths;
- Cleaning the floors and windowsills by using a damp mop or sponge; and
- Keeping children away from bare soil when playing outdoors.

If you have any concerns about lead exposure, please contact the City of Newark Health Department for more information at (973) 733-5323, or visit <http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/newborn/lead.shtml>

HISTORIC OPERATIONS

The New Jersey Zinc & Iron Company operated on the property now occupied by Terrell Homes, the neighboring property at 99 Chapel Street, and a small portion of the Riverfront Park. The zinc facility operated on this location from 1848 to 1910. When New Jersey Zinc & Iron Company closed, the buildings were demolished and the property was sub-divided and sold.

From 1946 to 1982, Barth Smelting Corporation operated on the 99 Chapel Street property producing brass and bronze ingots and non-ferrous metals and alloys. Currently a cargo securing company operates on this property.